



Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

aquatic sowbug

representative species

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Malacostraca
Order:	Ispododa

Features

Aquatic sowbugs are small, brown crustaceans, reaching only one-fifth to four-fifths of an inch long. They have seven pairs of legs on the thorax. The rear legs are longer than the front legs. The first pair of legs has grasping claws. There also are six pairs of appendages on the abdomen. The eyes are not on stalks. The body is flattened from top to bottom.

Natural History

Aquatic sowbugs live on the shallow bottom areas of freshwater ponds, lakes, streams, and springs. Most are omnivores or detritivores, eating many different types of food.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; bottomland forests